

FINING BATTER'S WEAKNESS IS REAL "IN BASE BALL" It Appears That Several Great Big League Sluggers Do Not Have a Weak Spot in Batting.

"Oh, gee! What a boob he was to give that guy one in the groove," writes George Young in the Philadelphia Ledger. How often have you heard that expression at a base ball game? Almost every time home-run batters are in the line, and over the right field fence some one in the crowd is sure to say "Serves him right for 'grooving' the ball." They used to say it about J. Franklin Baker, the American League "home-run king" retired to pasturing in a county league.

From the time the Trappe, Md., farmer broke into major league base ball from the Reading Tri-state League and his batting eye was brightened by what he picked up as a member of the Athletics, every player on the other seven clubs in the American League and the New York Giants in the National League, who met Baker in two world series, tried to find Baker's weakness. The pitchers thought they knew it, and every time one of them fanned the slugger he decided that he had discovered what Baker couldn't hit. But Baker continued to hit home runs just the same.

Probably Do Have a Weakness.

It is the same with Cravath of the Phillies, Vic Sale of the Chicago Cubs, Larry Doyle of the New York Giants, Sherwood Magee of the Boston Braves and a few more of the "leather-kickers." Probably all of these sluggers have a weakness that is known to one or more pitchers in the National League. The pitcher who is the batsman of the world; Joe Jackson of Cleveland, Tris Speaker of the Boston Red Sox and some more of the American League's star batsmen are weak batters against certain kinds of pitching, but year after year these men go on hitting just the same, and every time one of them lands on a ball for a hit that "cleans up" the batter's eye, it comes at a critical stage of a game where it does a lot of damage, there is the same old cry, "Grooving the ball!"

It is often the work of one or more pitchers on the bench, who are watching the kind of ball that a certain batter hits, how he hits it and in what direction. And when the pitcher pulls a ball that is inside or goes after the ones on the outside of the plate, he is really "grooving" the batter. With the manager on the bench it is the same. Often he may be seen making a ready-on-hand gesture, as if a man makes a hit or strikes out. It is not keeping score; he is marking down what kind of a ball was pitched to the batter and what he did with it. The man on the coaching line is probably "grooving" the pitcher, too. The pitchers, in addition to the players in the field, particularly the catcher, there does not seem to be a chance of missing a batsman's weakness.

The pitcher's control is a factor. Of course, the pitcher cannot always get the ball just where he wants it, even when he knows where it should go to prevent the batter from hitting it. This is where control counts. During the world series of 1911, between the Athletics and New York Giants, Baker hit only one home run, but he had a certain player stand, whether he pulls a ball that is inside or goes after the ones on the outside of the plate, he is really "grooving" the batter. With the manager on the bench it is the same. Often he may be seen making a ready-on-hand gesture, as if a man makes a hit or strikes out. It is not keeping score; he is marking down what kind of a ball was pitched to the batter and what he did with it. The man on the coaching line is probably "grooving" the pitcher, too. The pitchers, in addition to the players in the field, particularly the catcher, there does not seem to be a chance of missing a batsman's weakness.

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There were heavy hitters in the olden days, and it is hard to tell some of the old timers had a "weakness," but the players and managers did not think so much of the "inside game" in those days and there was little effort made to learn if a player who was known to be a slugger had such a thing as a batting "weakness," concealed about his system. If the great Ed Delahanty of the Phillies had a weakness no one ever found it, for "Red" was so good that he was the best of pitchers up until the time he jumped from the Phillies to the American League, where he was pitched.

What would Champion Cobb do? There was no such thing as finding out if a batter had a weakness during the days when the ball was allowed to call for the kind of a ball he wanted to hit, either a high or low, and was not compelled to strike at it unless it was right there. Wonder what would happen today if Ty Cobb and the other star batters of the major leagues were allowed to stand at the plate until they were hit?

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WHAT BATTERS ARE DOING IN THE TWO BIG LEAGUES

Averages Show Players Doing Well in Fielding.
AMERICAN LEAGUE. NATIONAL LEAGUE.

Records of all players who have played in 15 or more games, including Thursday, July 1, 1915.

NOLAN STRIKES OUT 76
Auditors' Hurler Leads Pitchers in Number of Men Fanned.

The fielding averages and the pitching records in the Terminal Railroad Park, where the first half of the season, including all games to June 15, furnish some interesting data on the strength of the four teams which are fighting it out for the pennant.

Jack Nolan of the Auditors holds the record for the greatest number of strikeouts, with a total of twenty-six, for six games, an average of twelve and two-thirds strikeouts per game. He has the honor of having struck out the greatest number in any one game, on two occasions fanning sixteen of his opponents.

The averages and pitching records follow:

Team	Player	Games	Strikes Out	Runs Allowed	Runs Scored	Runs Batted In	Runs Hit By	Runs Sacrificed	Runs Caught	Runs Put Out	Runs Total
Auditors	Jack Nolan	15	26	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10
Phillies	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Giants	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Braves	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...

The semi-finals of the five sixteen and consolation were all gotten out of the way during the past week and in several cases the finals were played. The first round of the playoffs was held on Saturday, June 27, and the second round on Sunday, June 28.

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FLAHERTY WILL COACH AT KEENEWATIN ACADEMY WHAT STYMIES MUST VANISH

Flaherty, the old-time ball player, has signed a contract to coach the baseball team of Keenevatina Academy at Platteville, Wis., and to establish a course in base ball for the youngsters who attend that institution.

Flaherty has been given credit by many base ball critics for being the best pitcher in the game, and he should prove an efficient instructor for the youngsters at what is generally considered as one of the most select preparatory schools in the middle west. This is the first school to offer a special course in base ball, a course by which it is intended that all the students shall learn the fine points of the game, and that the team shall be a twelve-man team, usually constituted a squad.

NEW YORK, July 3.—The handwriting is on the wall. In letters of bolder design than in any former year there can be traced the inscription, "The stymie must vanish." This is the first school to offer a special course in base ball, a course by which it is intended that all the students shall learn the fine points of the game, and that the team shall be a twelve-man team, usually constituted a squad.

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to 25% on any
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reduced prices. We are in a
position to compare our goods and prices with
others. Charge account if desired.

TRIBBY'S
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Washington Organization Plans for Fall Races.
The Washington Racing Pigeon Club held its semi-monthly meeting at the assembly hall of the Public Library last night and adopted a schedule for the fall racing season. The club is the first liberating point September 1, to be succeeded weekly by the following stations: Amherst, Va., Danville, Va., and Concord, N. C.

The club now is stronger than at any time in its history, no less than forty-five members having given indication of participating in the coming events. They will place in training nearly 1,000 pigeons.

At the meeting last night a report of the Chicago race was read as follows: H. M. Gordon, 2 days, 5 hours and 25 minutes; D. C. Buscilli, 5 days, 12 hours and 15 minutes; H. M. Gordon, 5 days, 13 hours and 5 minutes. A report also was heard of the American race, which will be held in the half year ending June 30, and much surprise was expressed at the huge prize fund, \$1,000, which will be distributed by this organization during 1915.

The Detroit Tigers make one more trip to St. Louis, in the first week in September, at which time the two games postponed and which were forfeited when an attempt to play them was made, will be staged. Detroit is the favorite to win the series, and the management of the St. Louis team is not picking at the luck which caused the games to be tied up.

Frank Comes From Two Years' Retirement and Throws Orphan.
HUMBOLDT, Iowa, July 3.—Frank Gotch, world champion wrestler, after two years' retirement, threw a match with Henry Orphan of Minneapolis, Minn., here today. Gotch won in straight falls of twenty-one, eighteen and sixteen seconds, respectively. The match was part of a "home-coming" celebration.

The hardest luck player in the world has been found. He is pitcher Adams, a Chicago University Prep boy, who pitched a no-hitter against the St. Louis Cardinals on July 2. Adams walked two errors and an infield out gave his opponents two runs.

Coleman's Lifelike Score Board
Open at the LYCEUM THEATRE
Monday Morning, July 5
Washington vs. Boston
10 O'Clock.
The only score board in town that shows the game in full.
Prices, 15c and 25c.
Smoking Permitted.

Always the Same THARP'S Bekeley Rye
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